

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE INS.,
Co.,

Plaintiff,

v.

DARYL P. ALEXANDER, et al.,

Defendant.

Case No. CV23-916 PA (MARx)

CIVIL TRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER
[FED. R. CIV. P. 16(b)]

1. Establishing a Discovery Cut-off Date of December 11, 2023
2. Setting Motion Cut-off date of December 18, 2023
3. Setting Final Pretrial Conference for January 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
4. Setting Court Trial Date of February 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

I. SCHEDULING

A. Discovery Cut-Off

This is the last date to complete discovery, including expert discovery, and the resolution of any discovery motions before the magistrate judge. If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, the parties shall designate experts to be called at trial and provide reports required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), not later than eight weeks prior to the discovery cutoff date. Rebuttal expert witnesses shall be designated and reports provided as required

1 by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), not later than five weeks prior to the discovery cutoff date.
2 Failure to timely comply with this deadline may result in the expert being excluded at trial as
3 a witness. The Court requires compliance with Local Rule 37-1 and 37-2 in the preparation
4 and filing of discovery motions. Discovery motions may not be heard on an ex parte basis.

5 **B. Joinder of Parties and Amendment of Pleadings**

6 The deadline for joining parties and amending pleadings is listed in the “Schedule of
7 Trial and Pretrial Dates” issued by the Court. Any motions to join other parties or for leave
8 to amend the pleadings shall be filed and served at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the
9 hearing deadline as required by Local Rule 6-1 so that they can be heard and decided prior
10 to the deadline. This deadline does not apply if the deadline for joining parties or amending
11 pleadings has already been calendared or occurred by virtue of an order issued by this Court
12 or another court.

13 In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 15-1, all motions to amend the pleadings
14 shall: (1) state the effect of the amendment; (2) be serially numbered to differentiate the
15 amendment from previous amendments; and (3) state the page, line number(s), and wording
16 of any proposed change or addition of material.

17 For the Court’s ease of reference, the moving party shall submit to chambers a
18 redlined version of the amended pleading.

19 **C. Motion Filing Cut-Off**

20 The Court hears motions on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. The motion filing cut-off date is
21 the last day motions may be heard (not filed). The Court will not decide late motions.
22 Issues left undetermined by the passage of the motion cut-off date should be listed as issues
23 for trial in the Final Pretrial Conference Order. As an exception to the above, motions in
24 limine dealing with evidentiary matters may be heard at or before trial; however, summary
25 judgment motions disguised as motions in limine will not be heard. Parties need not wait
26 until the discovery cut-off to bring motions for summary judgment or partial summary
27 judgment. However, in the usual case, the Court expects that more than the minimum notice
28 will be provided to counsel opposing motions for summary judgment. In the usual case, the
parties should confer and agree on the date for setting such motions.

1 **D. Ex Parte Applications**

2 Ex Parte Applications are entertained solely for extraordinary relief. See Mission
3 Power Eng. Co. v. Continental Casualty Co., 883 F.Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995). Strict
4 adherence to proper ex parte procedures, including Local Rule 7-19, is required for any ex
5 parte application filed with the Court.

6 **E. Stipulations to Extend Time**

7 Stipulations to extend the time to file any required document or to continue any
8 pretrial or trial date must set forth:

- 9 1. the existing due date or hearing date;
- 10 2. the current pretrial conference date and trial date;
- 11 3. the specific reasons supporting good cause for granting the extension or
12 continuance. For example, a statement that a continuance “will promote settlement” or that
13 the parties decided to suspend discovery while engaging in settlement discussions is
14 insufficient.
- 15 4. whether there have been any prior requests for extensions or
16 continuances, and whether these were granted or denied by the Court.

17 **F. Settlement**

18 Local Rule 16-15.2 provides that unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the
19 Settlement Conference shall be conducted not later than 45 days before the Pretrial
20 Conference. The Court believes that in most cases completion of all discovery and
21 dispositive motions will help the parties assess their positions before they embark on the
22 costly pre-trial process. However, in many cases, the parties find it more difficult to settle
23 after they have incurred the cost of all discovery and motion practice. Accordingly, the
24 Court strongly encourages counsel and the parties to pursue settlement earlier.

25 Notwithstanding the provisions of Local Rule 16-15.5, unless the parties have
26 received prior approval by the Court, lead trial counsel and each party shall appear at the
27 settlement proceeding in person or, in the case of a corporation or other non-governmental
28 entity, by a corporate representative with final authority to settle the case and who is

1 knowledgeable about the facts of the case. Representatives of insurers with decision-making
2 authority are also required to attend the settlement proceedings in person unless their
3 presence is expressly excused by the Court. The Court's requirement that lead trial counsel,
4 parties, corporate representatives, and insurer representatives must appear at the settlement
5 proceedings in person unless they have been expressly excused by the Court applies to
6 individuals located both within and outside the Central District of California.

7 The Court has a keen interest in helping the parties achieve settlement. If the parties
8 believe that it would be more likely that a settlement would be reached if they conduct
9 settlement conference at an earlier time than that specified by the Court, they should conduct
10 it at that time.

11 The Court will not conduct settlement conferences in non-jury cases which the Court
12 will try. In jury cases, the Court will conduct a settlement conference at the parties' request
13 if three conditions exist:

- 14 1. The parties are satisfied that the fact issues in the case will be tried to a
15 jury;
- 16 2. All significant pre-trial rulings which Court must make have been made;
17 and
- 18 3. The parties desire the Court to conduct the conference, understanding
19 that if settlement fails, the Court will preside over the trial of the case.

20 **II. LAW AND MOTION**

21 **A. Summary Judgment Motions**

22 **1. Timing**

23 In virtually every case, the Court expects that the moving party will provide more than
24 the minimum twenty-eight (28) day notice for such motions. The moving party shall submit
25 a copy of the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts and Conclusions of Law to the Court's
26 ECF e-mail address, in WordPerfect format (X9 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word
27 (Word 365 or earlier versions).
28

1 2. Memorandum of Points and Authorities

2 The movant's memorandum of points and authorities should be in the usual form
3 required under Local Rule 7 and should contain a narrative statement of facts as to those
4 aspects of the case that are before the Court. All facts should be supported with citations to
5 the paragraph number in the Separate Statement that supports the factual assertion and not to
6 the underlying evidence.

7 Unless the case involves some unusual twist on Rule 56, the motion need only contain
8 a brief statement of the Rule 56 standard; the Court is familiar with the Rule and with its
9 interpretation under Celotex and its progeny. If at all possible, the argument should be
10 organized to focus on the pertinent elements of the cause(s) of action or defense(s) in issue,
11 with the purpose of showing the existence or non-existence of a genuine issue of material
12 fact for trial on that element of the claim or defense.

13 Likewise, the opposition memorandum of points and authorities should be in the usual
14 form required by Local Rule 7, and where the opposition memorandum sets forth facts, the
15 memorandum should cite to paragraphs in the separate statement if they are not in dispute, to
16 the evidence that contravenes the fact where the fact is in dispute, or, if the fact is
17 contravened by an additional fact in the statement of genuine issues, the citation should be to
18 such fact by paragraph number.

19 3. Separate Statement of Undisputed Facts

20 The Separate Statement of Undisputed Facts is to be prepared in a two column format.
21 The left hand column should set forth the allegedly undisputed fact. The right hand column
22 should set forth the evidence that supports the factual statement. The fact statements should
23 be set forth in sequentially numbered paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain a narrowly
24 focused statement of fact. Each numbered paragraph should address a single subject in as
25 concise a manner as possible.

26 The opposing party's statement of genuine issues must be in two columns and
27 track the movant's separate statement exactly as prepared. The document must be in two
28 columns; the left hand column must restate the allegedly undisputed fact, and the right hand

1 column must indicate either undisputed, or disputed. The opposing party may dispute all or
2 only a portion of the statement, but if disputing only a portion, must clearly indicate what
3 part is being disputed. Where the opposing party is disputing the fact in whole or part, the
4 opposing party must, in the right hand column, label and restate the moving party's evidence
5 in support of the fact, followed by the opposing party's evidence controverting the fact.
6 Where the opposing party is disputing the fact on the basis of an evidentiary objection, the
7 party must cite to the evidence alleged to be objectionable and state the ground of the
8 objection and nothing more. **No argument should be set forth in this document.**

9 The opposing party may submit additional material facts that bear on or relate to the
10 issues raised by the movant, which shall follow the format described above for the moving
11 party's separate statement. These additional facts shall follow the movant's facts, shall
12 continue in sequentially numbered paragraphs (i.e., if movant's last statement of fact was set
13 forth in paragraph 30, then the first new fact will be set forth in paragraph 31), and shall set
14 forth in the right hand column the evidence that supports that statement.

15 The moving party, in its reply, shall respond to the additional facts in the same manner
16 and format that the opposition party is required to adhere to in responding to the statement of
17 undisputed facts, as described above.

18 4. Supporting Evidence

19 No party should submit any evidence other than the specific items of evidence or
20 testimony necessary to support or controvert a proposed statement of undisputed fact. Thus,
21 for example, the entire transcript of a deposition, entire sets of interrogatory responses, and
22 documents that do not specifically support or controvert material in the separate statements,
23 should not be submitted in support or opposition to a motion for summary judgment. Any
24 such material will not be considered.

25 Evidence submitted in support or opposition to a motion should be submitted either by
26 way of stipulation or as exhibits to declarations sufficient to authenticate the proffered
27 evidence, and should not be attached to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities. The
28 Court will accept counsel's authentication of deposition transcript, of written discovery

1 responses, and of the receipt of documents in discovery **if the fact that the document was**
 2 **in the opponent's possession is of independent significance.** Documentary evidence as to
 3 which there is no stipulation regarding foundation must be accompanied by the testimony,
 4 either by declaration or properly authenticated deposition transcript, of a witness who can
 5 establish its authenticity.

6 If evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion exceeds twenty pages, the
 7 evidence must be in a separate bound volume and include a Table of Contents.

8 5. Objections to Evidence

9 If a party disputes a fact based in whole or in part on an evidentiary objection, the
 10 ground of the objection, as indicated above, should be stated in the separate statement but
 11 not argued in that document. Evidentiary objections are to be addressed in a separate
 12 memorandum to be filed with the opposition or reply brief of the party. This memorandum
 13 should be organized **to track the paragraph numbers of the separate statement in**
 14 **sequence.** It should identify the specific item of evidence to which objection is made, the
 15 ground of the objection, and a very brief argument with citation to authority as to why the
 16 objection is well taken. The following is an example of the format contemplated by the
 17 Court:

18 Separate Statement Paragraph 1: Objection to the supporting
 19 deposition transcript of Jane Smith at 60:1-10 on the grounds that
 20 the statement constitutes inadmissible hearsay and no exception is
 21 applicable. To the extent it is offered to prove her state of mind, it
 22 is irrelevant since her state of mind is not in issue.

23 Fed. R. Evid. 801, 802.

24 **Do not submit blanket or boilerplate objections to the opponent's statements of**
 25 **undisputed fact: these will be disregarded and overruled.**

1 **B. Motions in Limine**

2 Motions in limine are not to be used as disguised motions for summary judgment.
3 Their purpose is limited to alerting the Court to significant evidentiary issues that can be
4 addressed and resolved prior to trial.

5 1. Timing

6 Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, motions in limine will be heard on the date
7 indicated in the “Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates” issued by the Court. Unless the Court
8 in its discretion otherwise allows, no motions in limine shall be filed or heard on an ex parte
9 basis absent a showing of irreparable injury or prejudice not attributable to the lack of
10 diligence of the moving party.

11 2. Limitation on Number of Motions in Limine

12 Unless otherwise ordered by the Court upon a showing of good cause, the Court will
13 consider no more than four (4) motions in limine by any party. If a party seeks to file more
14 than four (4) motions in limine, it must obtain the Court’s prior permission to file additional
15 motions in limine.

16 3. Pre-Filing Meeting of Counsel

17 Before filing any motion in limine, counsel for the parties shall confer pursuant to
18 Local Rule 7-3 in a good faith effort to eliminate the necessity for hearing the motion in
19 limine or to eliminate as many of the disputes as possible. The pre-filing meeting of counsel
20 shall occur no later than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date for filing of motions in
21 limine indicated in the “Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates” issued by the Court. It shall be
22 the responsibility of counsel for the moving party to arrange for this conference. The
23 conference shall take place in person within seven days of service upon opposing counsel of
24 a letter requesting such conference. Unless counsel agree otherwise, the conference shall
25 take place at the office of the moving party. If both counsel are not located in the same
26 county in the Central District, the conference may take place by telephone. The moving
27 party’s letter shall identify the testimony, exhibits, or other specific matters alleged to be
28 inadmissible and/or prejudicial, shall state briefly with respect to each such matter the

1 moving party's position (and provide any legal authority which the moving party believes is
2 dispositive), and specify the terms of the order to be sought.

3 4. Joint Motion

4 If counsel are unable to resolve their differences, they shall prepare a Joint Motion in
5 Limine. The Joint Motion in Limine shall consist of one document signed by all counsel.
6 The Joint Motion in Limine shall contain a clear identification of the testimony, exhibits, or
7 other specific matters alleged to be inadmissible and/or prejudicial and a statement of the
8 specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving party if the motion is not granted. The
9 identification of the matters in dispute shall be followed by each party's contentions and
10 each party's memorandum of points and authorities. The title page of the Joint Motion in
11 Limine must state the hearing date for the motions in limine and the trial date.

12 The moving party shall serve its portion of the Joint Motion in Limine on the
13 responding party fourteen (14) days prior to the date for filing of motions in limine indicated
14 in the "Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates." The responding party shall then serve the
15 opposition portion of the Joint Motion in Limine on the moving party both on paper and in
16 an electronic format seven (7) days prior to the date for the filing of motions in limine. The
17 moving party shall incorporate the responding party's portion into the Joint Motion in
18 Limine, add its arguments in reply, and file and serve the Joint Motion in Limine. Neither
19 party's portions of a Joint Motion in Limine shall exceed eight (8) pages.

20 Joint Motions in Limine shall be accompanied by a declaration from the moving party
21 that includes the following: (1) a clear identification of the specific matter alleged to be
22 inadmissible and/or prejudicial; (2) a representation to the Court that the subject of the
23 motion in limine has been discussed with opposing counsel, and that opposing counsel has
24 either indicated that such matter will be mentioned or displayed in the presence of the jury
25 before it is admitted in evidence or that counsel has refused to stipulate that such matter will
26 not be mentioned or displayed in the presence of the jury unless and until it is admitted in
27 evidence; and (3) a statement of the specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving
28 party if the motion in limine is not granted.

1 Unless ordered by the Court, no supplemental or separate memorandum of points and
2 authorities shall be filed by either party in connection with any motion in limine.

3 The Court will not consider any motion in limine in the absence of a joint motion or a
4 declaration from counsel for the moving party establishing that opposing counsel: (1) failed
5 to confer in a timely manner; (2) failed to provide the opposing party's portion of the joint
6 motion in a timely manner; or (3) refused to sign and return the joint motion after the
7 opposing party's portion was added. The failure of any counsel to comply with or cooperate
8 in the foregoing procedures will result in the imposition of sanctions, including a resolution
9 of the issue against the party refusing to cooperate.

10 **III. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE AND TRIAL SETTING**

11 This case has been placed on calendar for a Final Pretrial Conference ("PTC")
12 pursuant to F. R. Civ. P. 16 and Local Rule 16-1, unless the PTC was expressly waived at
13 the Scheduling Conference by the Court. Unless excused for good cause, each party
14 appearing in this action shall be represented at the PTC and all pretrial meetings of counsel,
15 by lead trial counsel. The failure to attend the PTC or to submit the required pretrial
16 documents may result in the dismissal of the action, striking the answer and entering a
17 default, and/or the imposition of sanctions.

18 A continuance of the Final Pretrial Conference at counsel's request or stipulation is
19 highly unlikely. Counsel should plan to do the necessary pretrial work on a schedule which
20 will insure its completion with time to spare before the Final Pretrial Conference.
21 Specifically, failure to complete discovery work, including expert discovery, is not a ground
22 for a continuance.

23 At the PTC, counsel should be prepared to discuss means of streamlining the trial,
24 including, but not limited to: bifurcation, presentation of non-critical testimony by
25 deposition excerpts, stipulations as to the content of testimony, presentation of testimony on
26 direct examination by declaration subject to cross-examination, and qualification of experts
27 by admitted resumes. In rare cases where the PTC is waived by the Court, counsel must
28 follow Local Rule 16-10.

The failure to attend the pretrial conference or to submit in conformity with this order, the jury instructions, pre-trial exhibit stipulation, joint statement of the case, voir dire questions, summary of witness testimony and times estimates, proposed Pretrial Conference Order or the memorandum of contentions of fact and law may result in the dismissal of the action, striking the answer and entering default and/or the imposition of sanctions.

A. Pretrial and Trial Documents

Compliance with the requirements of Local Rules 16-1 to 16-13 is required by the Court. Carefully prepared Memoranda of Contentions of Fact (which may also serve as the trial brief) and a proposed Final Pretrial Conference Order (“PTCO”) shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of Local Rule 16-7 and the form of the PTCO shall be in conformity with the format set forth in Appendix A to the Local Rules, modified as necessary to comply with this order.

The Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law, PTCO, Exhibit Lists, and Witness Lists shall be served and filed no later than fourteen (14) days before the Pre-Trial Conference.

1. Proposed Final Pre-Trial Conference Order

The PTCO must contain a Table of Contents. Place in all capital letters and in bold the separately numbered headings for each category in the PTCO. Under paragraph 1, list each claim, counterclaim, or defense that has been dismissed or abandoned. In multiple party cases where not all claims or counterclaims will be prosecuted against all remaining parties on the other side, please specify to which party each claim or counterclaim directed. The factual issues in dispute should track the elements of a claim or defense upon which the jury would be required to make findings. Counsel should state issues in ultimate fact form, not as evidentiary fact issues (i.e., “was the defendant negligent,” “was defendant’s negligence the proximate cause of plaintiff’s injury,” not “was the plaintiff standing on the corner of 5th and Spring at 10:00 a.m. on May 3”). Issues of law should state legal issues

1 upon which the Court will be required to rule after the Pre-Trial Conference, including
 2 during the trial, and should not list ultimate fact issues to be submitted to the trier of fact.

3 In drafting the PTCO, the Court expects that counsel will attempt to agree on and set
 4 forth as many non-contested facts as possible. The Court will normally read the uncontested
 5 facts to the jury at the start of the trial. Carefully drafted and comprehensively stated
 6 stipulation of facts will reduce the length of trial and increase jury understanding of the case.

7 If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, each party must list and identify its
 8 respective expert witnesses, both retained and non-retained in the PTCO. **Failure of a party**
 9 **to list and identify an expert witness in the PTCO shall preclude a party from calling**
 10 **that expert witness at trial.**

11 2. Summary of Witness Testimony and Time Estimates

12 Counsel shall prepare a list of their witnesses, including a brief summary (two to three
 13 paragraphs) of each witness' expected testimony and an estimate of the length of time
 14 needed for direct examination; and whether the witness will testify by deposition or in
 15 person. Counsel shall exchange these lists with opposing counsel. **Counsel shall jointly**
 16 **file a single list of witness testimony summaries, including estimates for direct**
 17 **examination of their own witnesses and estimates for cross-examination of opposing**
 18 **witnesses.** These statements shall be filed at the time counsel file the PTCO, i.e., fourteen
 19 (14) days before the Pre-Trial Conference. A copy of the Joint Trial Witness Form is
 20 attached to this Order.

21 3. Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms

22 Fourteen (14) days prior to counsel's Rule 16 pre-trial meeting, counsel shall
 23 exchange proposed jury instructions (general and special) and special verdict forms (if
 24 applicable). Seven (7) days prior to the Rule 16-2 meeting, counsel shall exchange any
 25 objections to the instructions and special verdict forms. Prior to, or at the time of the Rule
 26 16 meeting, counsel shall meet and confer with the goal of reaching agreement on one set of
 27 joint jury instructions and one special verdict form.

1 The parties should make every attempt to agree upon the jury instructions before
2 submitting them to the Court. The Court expects counsel to agree on the substantial
3 majority of jury instructions, particularly when pattern instructions provide a statement of
4 applicable law. When the Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit
5 provides a version of an applicable requested instruction, the parties should submit the most
6 recent version of the Model instruction. Where language appears in brackets in the model
7 instruction, counsel shall select the appropriate text and eliminate the inapplicable bracketed
8 text. Where California law applies, counsel should use the current edition of the Judicial
9 Council of California Civil Jury Instructions (“CACI”). If neither of the above sources is
10 applicable, counsel are directed to use the instructions from O’Malley, Grenig & Lee
11 (formerly Devitt, et al.), Federal Jury Practice and Instructions (latest edition). Each
12 requested jury instruction shall cover only one subject or principle of law and shall be
13 numbered and set forth in full on a separate page, citing the authority or source of the
14 requested instruction (except for the “clean” jury copy discussed below).

15 When the parties disagree on an instruction, the party opposing the instruction must
16 attach a short statement (one to two paragraphs) supporting the objection, and the party
17 submitting the instruction must attach a short statement supporting the instruction. Each
18 statement should be on a separate page and should follow directly after the disputed
19 instruction.

20 The parties ultimately must submit one document or, if the parties disagree over any
21 proposed jury instructions, two documents. If the parties submit two documents, those
22 documents shall consist of: (1) a set of Joint Proposed Jury Instructions and (2) a set of
23 Disputed Jury Instructions, along with reasons supporting and opposing each disputed
24 instruction in the format set forth in the previous paragraph.

25 The parties must file proposed jury instructions fourteen (14) days before the Pre-Trial
26 Conference. Counsel shall also submit a copy of the proposed jury instructions to the
27 Court’s ECF e-mail address in WordPerfect format (X9 or earlier versions) or Microsoft
28

Word (Word 365 or earlier versions) in accordance with this paragraph and the previous paragraph.

The Court will send a copy of the instructions into the jury room for the jury's use during deliberations. Accordingly, in addition to the file copies described above, the e-mail containing the jury instructions shall contain a "clean set" of Joint Proposed and/or Disputed Jury Instructions, containing only the text of each instruction set forth in full on each page, with the caption "Court's Instruction No. ____" (eliminating titles, supporting authority, indication of party proposing, etc.).

An index page shall accompany all jury instructions submitted to the Court. The index page shall indicate the following:

- (a) The number of the instruction;
- (b) A brief title of the instruction;
- (c) The source of the instruction and any relevant case citations; and
- (d) The page number of the instruction.

EXAMPLE:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Trademark-Defined (15 U.S.C. § 1127)	9th Cir. 15.3.2	7

Along with the jury instructions, counsel shall submit any necessary special verdict form fourteen (14) days before the Pre-Trial Conference and e-mail any such proposed special verdict form in WordPerfect format (X9 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word (Word 365 or earlier versions) to the Court's ECF e-mail address.

4. Voir Dire Questions

Counsel may, but need not, submit brief proposed voir dire questions for the jury at the Pre-Trial Conference. The Court will conduct its own voir dire after consulting any proposed voir dire submitted by counsel.

1 5. Joint Statement of the Case

2 Counsel shall file a joint statement of the case prior to the Pretrial Conference. The
3 joint statement of the case will be read to the prospective panel of jurors prior to the
4 commencement of voir dire. The statement should not exceed one page.

5 6. Joint Statement Regarding Settlement

6 Counsel shall file a single Joint Status Report Regarding Settlement at the time they
7 file the Proposed Pre-Trial Conference Order. The Joint Statement Regarding Settlement
8 shall include the date on which the settlement conference occurred, identify the mediator,
9 counsel, and party representatives who appeared at the settlement conference, and indicate if
10 the parties intend to engage in further settlement discussions.

11 7. Exhibits and Witnesses

12 The parties shall file their witness lists and exhibits lists in accordance with Local
13 Rule 16. Counsel are to assemble their exhibits by placing them in three-ring binders
14 labeled on the spine portion of the binder showing both the volume number and the exhibit
15 numbers. Each exhibit shall be separated by a tabbed divider on the right side. Counsel
16 shall provide original exhibits for the Courtroom Deputy Clerk and a duplicate set for the
17 judge. The original exhibits shall be tagged with the appropriate exhibit tags in the upper or
18 lower right corner of the first page of each exhibit. Each binder shall contain a Table of
19 Contents. Counsel must comply with Local Rule 26-3 when numbering the exhibits. The
20 Clerk's Office, located on the fourth floor of the United States Courthouse, 350 West 1st
21 Street, Los Angeles, California can supply counsel with appropriate exhibit tags.

22 The Court requires the following to be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk on
23 the first day of trial:

- 24 (a) The original exhibits with the Court's exhibit tags. Plaintiff shall use
25 yellow tags; defendant shall use blue tags. Each tag shall be stapled to
26 the front of the exhibit on the upper right corner and include the case
27 number, case name, and exhibit number.
28

1 (b) One bench book with a copy of each exhibit for the Court's use, tabbed
2 as described above; a copy of the witness lists).

3 (c) Three (3) copies of exhibit lists. The exhibit list shall also be submitted
4 to the Court's ECF e-mail address in both a PDF version and a
5 WordPerfect (X9 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word (Word 365 or
6 earlier versions) version.

7 (d) Three (3) copies of witness lists in the order in which the witnesses will
8 be called to testify.

9 All counsel are to meet no later than fourteen (14) days before trial to discuss and
10 agree to the extent possible on issues including foundation and admissibility.

11 8. Final Trial Exhibit Stipulation

12 The parties shall prepare a final Trial Exhibit Stipulation which shall contain each
13 party's numbered list of all trial exhibits, with objections, if any, to each exhibit including
14 the basis of the objection and the offering party's response. All exhibits to which there is no
15 objection shall be deemed admitted. All parties shall stipulate to the authenticity of exhibits
16 whenever possible, and the final Trial Exhibit Stipulation shall identify any exhibits whose
17 authenticity has not been stipulated to and the specific reasons for the party's failure to
18 stipulate. The final Trial Exhibit Stipulation shall be filed five days before trial. Failure to
19 comply with this paragraph shall constitute a waiver of all objections. The final Trial
20 Exhibit Stipulation shall be in the same form as the Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation.

21 9. Jury Evidence Recording System

22 The Court is equipped with the Jury Evidence Recording System ("JERS") that allows
23 evidence admitted during trial to be viewed electronically in the jury deliberation room upon
24 the conclusion of the trial. JERS provides easy access to evidence during the deliberations
25 through the use of a large screen monitor in the jury room. JERS also provides an efficient
26 method for tracking the receipt and introduction of evidence in document-intensive bench
27 trials. The Court will determine how and if JERS will be used during each specific trial.
28

1 Additional information concerning JERS is available on the Court's website
2 (www.cacd.uscourts.gov) in the Judge's Procedures and Schedules.

3 10. Designation of Deposition Testimony. If a party desires to offer
4 deposition testimony into evidence at trial for any purpose other than impeachment, it shall
5 designate, no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date for filing of the PTCO, only
6 those relevant portions of the testimony it wishes to offer at trial and advise opposing
7 counsel whether the testimony shall be read, played on videotape or on a computer, or
8 submitted. Those designations are to be shared electronically with opposing counsel.

9 If a party intends to object to the designated deposition testimony or offer counter-
10 designations, the opposing party shall electronically exchange those objections and counter-
11 designations of deposition testimony no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the filing date
12 for the filing of the PTCO. Counter-designations are to be made only for completeness.
13 Counter-designations are not a substitute for deposition testimony a party wishes to play in
14 its case-in-chief. The party that originally designated the deposition testimony may object to
15 the counter-designations.

16 Once the parties exchange objections, counter-designations and objections to counter-
17 designations, the parties shall combine the original designations and objections with the
18 counter-designations and objections (and brief response to the objection from the party
19 offering the counter-designation) into a single document formatted into a table as described
20 below with the counter-designations inserted either immediately preceding or following the
21 associated original designation. The table should clearly identify the offering party and
22 whether the offered testimony is a designation or counter-designation. The combined
23 document with the table of designations, counter-designations, and their associated
24 objections and responses shall be filed with the Court no later than the date for the filing of
25 the PTCO.

26 **Do not submit blanket or boilerplate objections - these will be disregarded and**
27 **overruled.**
28

The following is an example of the format required by the Court:

Deposition Designation	Objection & Response
<p><u>Plaintiff's Designation of Tom Jones (42:14-15, 22; 43:7-8, 17-22):</u></p> <p><u>Page 42</u> 14 Q. How many managers overall at Ruiz & 15 Flint?</p> <p>22 A. I do not know.</p> <p><u>Page 43</u> 7 Q. (Continuing by Mr. Scotten) How many 8 partners does Ruiz & Flint have?</p> <p>17 A. For a certainty, I do not know. 18 Q. (Continuing by Mr. Scotten) Do you know Mr. Eugene Ruiz? 19 A. Yes, sir. 20 Q. What's his position at Ruiz & Flint? 21 A. I would speculate that he's a partner and 22 owner.</p>	<p><u>Defendants' Objections:</u></p> <p>Page 42:14-15, 22: Irrelevant, Fed. R. Evid. 801, 802.; Page 43:21-23: No foundation, Fed. R. Evid. 401.</p> <p><u>Plaintiff's Response:</u></p> <p>Mr. Jones was the corporate representative for Ruiz & Flint.</p>

11. Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation

The parties shall prepare a Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation which shall contain each party's numbered list of trial exhibits, with objections, if any, to each exhibit including the basis of the objection and the offering party's response. All exhibits to which there is no objection shall be deemed admitted. All parties shall stipulate to the authenticity of exhibits whenever possible, and the Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation shall identify any exhibits whose authenticity has not been stipulated to and the specific reasons for the party's failure to stipulate.

The Stipulation shall be substantially in the following form:

Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation

Plaintiff's Exhibits

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Objection</u>	<u>Response to Objection</u>
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Defendant's Exhibits

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Objection</u>	<u>Response to Objection</u>
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The Pre-Trial Exhibit Stipulation shall be filed at the same time as counsel files the PTCO. Failure to comply with this paragraph shall constitute a waiver of all objections.

12. Post Trial Exhibit List

At or before the conclusion of the evidence, counsel for each party shall submit a "clean" list of only those exhibits offered by such party that have been admitted into evidence. Such lists shall be in a form suitable for submission to the jury and shall set forth the following information with respect to each exhibit to the extent applicable:

(a) Exhibit Number

(b) Date

(c) A brief description of the exhibit that will enable jurors to identify it but which does not characterize the exhibits or its contents (e.g., letter from A to B; photograph of 100 Main Street).

B. Court Trials

In addition to the requirements listed above that apply to non-jury trials, the Court orders that counsel comply with the following in their preparation for a Court Trial.

1. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

For a non-jury trial, counsel for each party shall file and serve proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law seven (7) days prior to the date for filing of the Motions in Limine and the Response to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law indicated in the "Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates." The parties shall also e-mail these proposed

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in WordPerfect format (X9 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word (Word 365 or earlier versions) to both the Court's ECF e-mail address and opposing counsel. Counsel for each party shall then:

- (a) Underline or highlight in red the portions which it disputes;
- (b) Underline or highlight in blue the portions which it admits; and
- (c) Underline or highlight in yellow the portions which it does not dispute, but deems irrelevant.

Counsel may agree with a part of a finding or conclusion, disagree with a part of it and/or consider a part of it irrelevant.

The parties should then file and serve their respective Responses to the other party's proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on the date for filing of the Motions in Limine and the Responses to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law indicated in the "Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates."

The parties shall be prepared to submit to the court, and to exchange among themselves, supplemental Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law during the course of the trial, with respect to which the same underlining procedure may be ordered.

2. Witness Declarations

Counsel in non-jury trials shall submit the direct testimony of their witnesses in writing in a declaration executed under penalty of perjury. This requirement does not apply to the testimony of witnesses affiliated with the opposing party who refuse to provide a trial declaration. Trial testimony declarations shall be in admissible form with appropriate foundation established for the declarant's statements. These declarations shall also include an adequate foundation and evidentiary basis for each trial exhibit a party seeks to admit through the testimony of the witness. Paragraphs in each declaration shall be numbered consecutively to facilitate the identification of paragraphs for evidentiary objections.

Counsel are to exchange and file these declarations with the Court at least twenty-one (21) days before trial, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Fourteen (14) days before

trial, Counsel may file a separate document stating any evidentiary objections to those declarations.

Lead counsel must then meet and confer regarding any possible objections to Direct Testimony Trial Declarations. At the conference, counsel shall attempt to resolve the objections. After the conference, for any objection counsel have been unable to resolve, the parties shall, no later than seven (7) days prior trial, file a single joint statement that contains the objections and responses for all witnesses. **Do not submit blanket or boilerplate objections - these will be disregarded and overruled.** The Joint Statement shall be in the following format:

Trial Declaration Testimony	Objection & Responses
<u>Plaintiff's Trial Declaration of Tom Jones</u> <p>¶ 14: [Text of disputed paragraph of the trial testimony declaration]</p>	<u>Defendant's Objection</u> <p>[Cite the grounds and authority for the objection, e.g., Relevance under Fed. R. Evid. 401; Foundation under Fed. R. Evid. 901]</p> <u>Plaintiff's Response to Objection</u> <p>[e.g., this testimony is relevant to Plaintiff's first claim for relief because . . .]</p> <u>Defendant's Response</u> <p>[e.g., this testimony is not relevant to Plaintiff's first claim for relief because . . .]</p>

At trial, the Court will rule on the evidentiary objections and, depending upon the ruling, the declarations will be received in evidence, either in whole or in part, or rejected. Counsel will then conduct the cross-examination and re-direct examination at trial. This order does not apply to rebuttal witnesses.

Failure to comply with the literal terms of this Order will result in sanctions or the Court may refuse to allow that witness to testify.

1 **IV. TRIAL CONDUCT**

2 **A. Trial Schedule**

3 Counsel shall arrive in the Courtroom at 8:30 a.m. on the first day of trial for the
4 purpose of handling logistical and administrative matters pertaining to the trial, including the
5 submission of exhibits as discussed below. On the first day of trial, and until a jury is
6 empaneled in a Jury Trial, the Court will typically be in session from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00
7 p.m. Once a jury is empaneled, trials are conducted Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.
8 to 1:30 p.m., with two fifteen (15) minute breaks.

9 Before trial commences, the Court will give Counsel an opportunity to discuss
10 administrative matters and anticipated procedural or legal issues. On the first day of trial,
11 this will include a final discussion of voir dire questions and the content of the joint
12 statement. During the trial, the court will not hold bench or chambers conferences, it is the
13 intention of the court that trial testimony will be presented without interruption for five or
14 six hours each day, and all legal issues of importance must be raised in advance of trial by
15 written noticed motions. If there are any matters Counsel wish to discuss, inform the
16 Courtroom Deputy and the matter can be heard at the next recess or the next day.

17 **B. Time Limits**

18 The Court will, in every case, impose time limits on the amount of time each side will
19 have for opening statement, witness examination, and closing argument.

20 **C. Courtroom Technology**

21 If Counsel need to arrange for the installation of their own additional equipment, such
22 as video monitors, overhead projectors, etc., notify the Courtroom Deputy no later than 4:30
23 p.m. the Thursday **BEFORE** trial so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

24 **D. Witnesses**

25 The parties are to exchange final witness lists in the order in which the witnesses will
26 be called to testify together with a final joint trial witness time estimate form five (5) days
27 prior to trial.
28

1 Plaintiff must advise defendant, no later than noon on the Friday before the
2 commencement of trial, the names of the witnesses in the order in which they will be called
3 to testify on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of trial. Failure to adhere to this provision of
4 the Court's order may result in the Court precluding the witness from testifying at trial.

5 Counsel shall, either in advance of trial, or at least before the witness testifies, notify
6 the clerk – preferably in writing – what exhibits the witness will be asked to testify about.
7 The clerk then places those exhibits, each clearly labeled, before the witness at the beginning
8 of that witness' testimony.

9 **E. Voir Dire and Jury Selection**

10 The Court will conduct voir dire after conferring with Counsel regarding potential
11 areas of questioning. A portion of the voir dire may be based on written questions given to
12 the jurors when they arrive at Court.

13 In most cases, the Court will conduct its initial voir dire of 14 prospective jurors who
14 will be seated in the jury box. Normally the Court selects a jury of eight.

15 Except in an unusual case, each side will have three peremptory challenges.
16 Therefore, if 14 jurors are in the box and all six peremptories are exercised, the remaining
17 eight jurors will constitute the jury panel. If fewer than six peremptories are exercised, the
18 eight low-numbered jurors (by seat number in the jury box) will constitute the jury panel.

19 **F. Instructions Governing Procedure During Trial**

20 1. Counsel are expected to cooperate with each other during trial to insure
21 the efficient and expeditious use of court and juror time.

22 2. Counsel shall not refer to their clients or any witness over 14 years of
23 age by their first names during trial.

24 3. Do not discuss the law or argue the case in opening statements.

25 4. Do not use objections for purposes of making a speech, recapitulating
26 testimony, or attempting to guide the witness. When objecting, state only that you are
27 objecting and the specific legal ground of the objection, e.g., hearsay, irrelevant, etc. The
28 court will not hear arguments in front of the jury on evidentiary issues. Most unusual or

1 complex evidentiary issues can be foreseen and disposed of in advance; those that cannot
2 ordinarily will be disposed of at the next recess, with the witness retained until the issue is
3 resolved.

4 5. Counsel should not paraphrase the witness' answer into a new question
5 which asks the same thing. For example:

6 (a) Do I understand you to mean that . . .

7 (b) Is it your testimony then that . . .

8 (c) Is it fair to say that . . .

9 (d) Can we assume then that . . .

10 (e) So that I am clear . . .

11 There is no need to hear the testimony of the witness two or three times. In addition having
12 been asked and answered, often these questions are argumentative.

13 6. Counsel are to have their witnesses review all exhibits about which they
14 will be questioned.

15 7. In multi-party cases, Counsel are expected to coordinate their cross-
16 examination. The Court will not permit each party's counsel to repeat previous cross-
17 examination questions.

18 8. Do not approach the Courtroom Deputy or the witness box without the
19 Court's permission. Please return to the lectern when your purpose has been accomplished.
20 Do not enter the well of the Court without the Court's permission.

21 9. Please rise when addressing the Court, and when the jury enters or
22 leaves the courtroom.

23 10. Address all remarks to the Court. Do not directly address the
24 Courtroom Deputy, the reporter, or opposing counsel. If you wish to speak with opposing
25 counsel, ask permission to talk to counsel off the record. All requests to re-read questions or
26 answers, or to have an exhibit placed in front of a witness, shall be addressed to the Court.

1 11. Although the Court encourages the parties to stipulate to facts that are
2 not reasonably in dispute, do not offer a stipulation unless you have previously conferred
3 with opposing counsel and reached an agreement.

4 12. All depositions to be used in the trial, either as evidence or for
5 impeachment, must be signed and lodged with the Courtroom Deputy on the first day of trial
6 or such earlier date as the Court may order. If deposition transcripts available in an
7 electronic format, they should be lodged with the hard copy.

8 13. Whenever Counsel expects to offer a group of answers to interrogatories
9 or requests for admissions, extracted from one or more lengthy documents, Counsel shall
10 prepare a new document listing each question and answer and identifying the document
11 from which it was extracted. Copies of this new document should be given to the Court and
12 opposing counsel.

13 14. While court is in session, do not leave the counsel table to confer with
14 investigators, secretaries, or witnesses unless permission is granted in advance.

15 15. When a party has more than one lawyer, only one may conduct the
16 examination of a given witness and only that lawyer may handle objections during the
17 testimony of that witness.


18 16. If a witness was on the stand at a recess or adjournment, have the
19 witness back on the stand and ready to proceed when court resumes.

20 17. Do not run out of witnesses. If you are out of witnesses and there is
21 more than a brief delay, the Court may deem that you have rested.

22 18. Counsel are advised to be on time as the Court starts promptly.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: June 21, 2023

25 
26 _____
Percy Anderson
27 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
28

Revised:3/11/2021

JOINT TRIAL WITNESS ESTIMATE FORM

CASE: _____

TRIAL DATE: _____

	WITNESS NAME	PARTY CALLING WITNESS AND ESTIMATE	X-EXAMINER'S ESTIMATE	DESCRIPTION OF TESTIMONY	COMMENTS
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
1					
	TOTAL ESTIMATES THIS PAGE:				

Instructions:

(1) List witnesses (last name first); (2) For description, be extremely brief, e.g., “eyewitness to accident.” Or “expert on standard of care.” (3) Use estimates within fractions of an hour, rounded off to closest quarter of an hour. E.g., if you estimate 20 minutes, make it .25. An estimate of one and one-half hours would be 1.5. An estimate of three-quarters of an hour would be .75; (4) Note special factors in “Comments” column. E.g., “Needs interpreter.” (5) Entries may be in handwriting if very neat and legible.